

Message Text

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TAGS: ESCAP, AORG

SUBJECT:ESCAP-ACPR 12TH SESSION

REF: BANGKOK 18009

FOR RED

1.A.STEERING COMMITTEE PROPOSALS (OES/ACPR/45) FOR UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR ASIAN INSTITUTES CONTAIN NO SURPRISES. IN MOST RESPECTS THEY SEEM REASONABLE AND THOUGHTFUL, IF SOMEWHAT COMPLEX, ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOVERNING, COORDINATING AND ADVISING THE INSTITUTES. SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE COORDINATING CTE SEEM TO OVERLAP, E.G., REVIEW OF BUDGETS AND WORK PROGRAMS. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN OUR VIEW TO RESTRICT GC FUNCTIONS TO POLICY FORMULATION, FINAL APPROVALS OR ENDORSEMENTS, AND RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS.

B. WITH REGARD TO CAREFUL STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, IT SEEMS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO US THAT ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTES

COULD BE BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE EARLIER THAN APRIL 1977. IN FACT, IT WOULD SEEM USEFUL FOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO HAVE ADVISORY COMMITTEES WITH WHICH TO WORK DURING PERIOD 1975-77.

2. A. CONCERNING OES/ACPR/47, AIEDP OBJECTIVES FOR 1976-80 PERIOD POSE NO QUESTIONS FOR US. CENTRAL THEME OF ERADICATION OF POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY IS HOWEVER, VERY AMBITIOUS. MORE TO POINT IS EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ATTACK ON POCKETS OF POVERTY. EQUAL EMPHASIS ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING INDUSTRIALIZATION, SOCIAL WELFARE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT WHILE IMPORTANT CONCERNS FOR SOME GOVERNMENTS IS LIKELY TO DEFLECT EFFORTS FROM MAJOR AIM OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF RURAL MASSES.

B. WE ENDORSE EMPHASIS ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES UNDER NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. WE WOULD EMPHASIZE DESIRABILITY OF FEEDBACK TO AIEDP FROM RECIPIENTS OF ADVISORY SERVICES AS TOUCHED ON IN REPORT IN ORDER THAT TRAINING AND RESEARCH WILL REFLECT, TO HIGHEST DEGREE POSSIBLE, REAL NEEDS OF ESCAP COUNTRIES.

4. GENERAL COMMENT ON DRAFT PROJECT DOCUMENT WOULD BE THAT IT IS HIGHLY AMBITIOUS AND COVERS VERY WIDE AREA OF CONCERN WHICH, GIVEN LIMITED RESOURCES OF INSTITUTE, MAY NOT BE REALISTIC UNDERTAKING LIKELY TO PRODUCE MEASURABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THERE IS A NEED TO LIMIT PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTIVITY TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES. USREP MAY WISH TO PROPOSE THE IDEA OF PHASING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REVISED AIEDP PROGRAM SO AS TO ACCORD WITH RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT EACH STAGE. ROBINSON

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